

**The US Commission on Civil Rights  
Eastern Regional Office**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**New Jersey Federal Advisory Committee to  
Convene Public Briefing on the New Jersey  
Department of Corrections and its  
Compliance with the Americans With  
Disabilities Act**

**What: Briefing on New Jersey Department of Corrections' Compliance with ADA**  
**When: Friday, March 4, 2011. 9am - 12pm Eastern Standard Time**  
**Where: Committee Room 6, Legislative Annex, 125 West State Street,  
Trenton, NJ 08625.**

**Washington, DC --** Three panels of state and national experts will inform the New Jersey State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights about accommodations provided to inmates with disabilities.

Speakers will include Carol Blessing from Cornell University who will present findings on a recent study implementing the "Inmate to Citizen" program in New York State. Other speakers:

- Dr. Herbert Kaldany, Mental Health Services Unit, Department of Corrections
- Hugh DeHaven, Office of Educational Services, Department of Corrections
- Phil Lubitz, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Beverly Frantz, Temple University Institute on Disabilities  
Resources on Offenders
- Stephen Smith, NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities.

*Background:* With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), inmates with disabilities gained the right to obtain accommodations. While there have been a number of

landmark cases affirming inmates' protections, none of these cases have dealt with non-apparent disabilities, such as mental health, learning and development disabilities, as required by the

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Americans with Disabilities Act. With a series of panels, the New Jersey State Advisory Committee will explore efforts of the New Jersey Department of Corrections to provide these accommodations. Topics will include the obligation of the corrections systems to identify and provide accommodations for inmates, and whether, without accommodations, these disabilities may stand in the way of a transition from inmate to citizen. The NJ State Advisory Committee will rely on these briefings to prepare a series of findings and recommendations that it hopes will be helpful to the Department of Corrections.

The briefing is open to the public. Free parking is provided.

### **New Jersey State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights**

*The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has established state advisory committees to advise the Commission about state civil rights issues that are within the Commission's jurisdiction. State committees receive reports, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals, public officials, and representatives of public and private organizations in response to committee inquiries. The committees forward advice and recommendations to the Commission, and assist the Commission in its public education and outreach efforts. Committee members are citizens of the state and serve without compensation.*

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